FREE INDIA

34th Year Of Publication February 25, 1973 ★ 20 Paise

Madhok And Jana Sangh

One Asia" Assembly : Ominous Junket

New U. S. Envoy: Profile

Flower of Fire: New Poem

The Show Goes On......Feature

"We Have No Tickets" : Story

Hippie Era Is Over

V. V. S. Aiyar: Biography

A Page Full of Humour

Muscovite's Diary

From Far And Near

SOUTH INDIA'S FINEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY

Pouring of pig-iron from one of the blast furnaces.

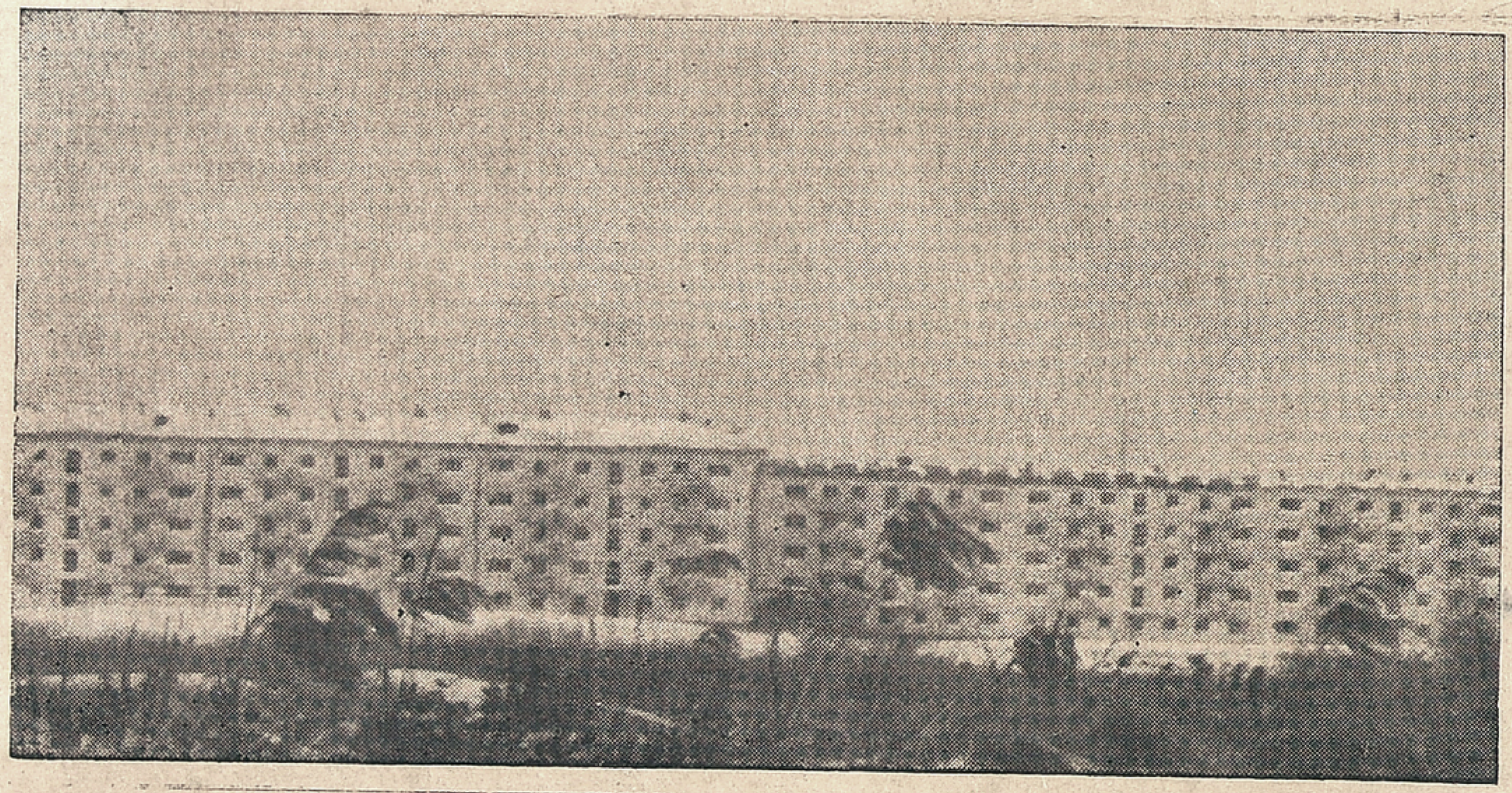
Youth Takes Responsibility

CONSTRUCTION is carried on on a wide scale in the Soviet Union. During the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1966-1970), about 2,000 large industrial projects were put into operation. In the Ninth Five-Year Plan, provision has been made for the expansion of capital construction up to 50 per cent. Young people work hand in hand with masters of the older generation on the construction sites of numerous industrial projects. But there are special projects which are of paramount importance to the Soviet economy. The Leninist Young Communist League has taken the responsibility of constructing many of these projects. The finest representatives of Soviet youth are sent there by the YCL. Such construction sites are called Komsomol top-priority projects in the USSR.

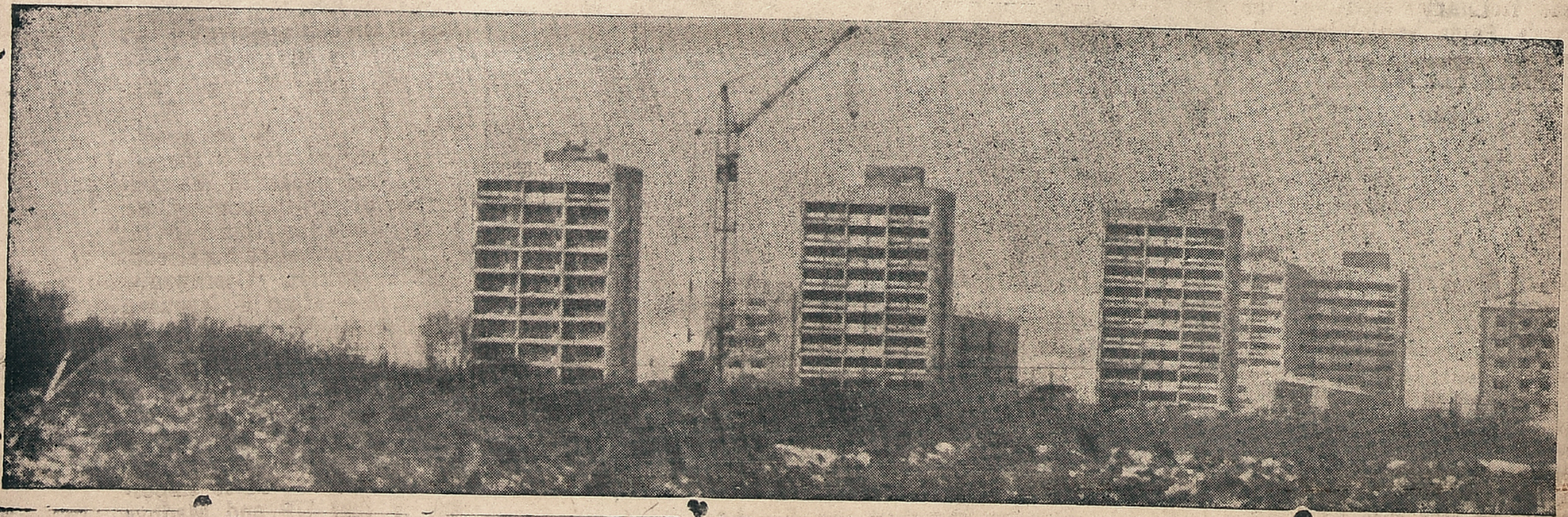
Soviet young men and women have always been in the vanguard of builders of the material and technical base for communism. Each time the Communist Party appealed to the Young Communist League to assume responsibility for this or that important construction project in invariably evoked an enthusiastic response.

During the Ninth Five-Year Plan period, the contribution of YCL members and other young people to industrial construction is going to be even more sizeable. A total of

(Contd: On Third Cover)



A new modern city has come up close to a plant.



5.3.73 1001
Mr. G. D. Naidu,
Gopal Bagh,
Avanashi Road,
Coimbatore-18.

READ

FREE

INDIA

Regd. No. 4181. 20 PAISE Telephone : 85304

34th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Free India

Founder : E. R. GOVINDAN

Vol. XXXIV | Madras, Sunday, Feb. 25, 1973 | No. 22

FREE INDIA
Phone: 85304
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
6 Months Rs. 5 00
1 Year Rs. 10 00
Single Copy 20 Ps.
OUTSIDE INDIA
6 Months Rs. 10
1 Year Rs. 20
Circulation Manager
FREE INDIA WEEKLY
MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS-2

Jan Sangh Bid To Hide R. S. S. Identity

NONE of the controversies that came to be highlighted at the recently concluded Kanpur session of the Jana Sangh can be said to be new or unknown, including, finally, the exclusion of former party President Balraj Madhok from the new working committee, writes a special correspondent in the Mainstream of New Delhi.

In his note to the party working committee on the eve of the conference, Sri Madhok had demanded an end to Leftist phrase-mongering by the leadership to enable it to join its natural allies like the Swatantra Party, Syndicate, or the BKD of Choudhry Charan Singh. His emphasis on restructuring of the Jana Sangh was obviously intended to rid the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He had been fighting for these issues since the 1967 elections, and particularly after he was forced out of the leadership and replaced by the late Deen Dayal Upadhy as President.

One may recall here that Sri Madhok had openly denounced some of the Jana Sangh leaders earlier as the "stooges" of the RSS, toeing the latter's policy and practice. He was forced to withdraw his pamphlet on this issue from the venue of the party's Patna session in 1969, and the issue was settled at a post-Patna meeting of the Jana Sangh working committee. Only then was Sri Madhok nominated to the working committee by the then party President, Sri Atal Behari Vajpayee.

R. S. S. IDENTITY

What is important in this context is that most of the Jana Sangh leaders are particular to hide their RSS identity. Sri Madhok was himself an ardent RSS follower. He can identify each nuance and move as and when it emanates from the RSS headquarters in Nagpur. Though in all fairness to Sri Modhok, it has to be said that he is all praise for the devoted RSS cadres but he has little faith in political calibre of RSS Sarasanghachalak Golwalkar. Even the recent bid of Sri Golwalkar to bring round Sri Madhok failed to fructify, it is learnt.

As for the political-ideological veneer of the controversy, sought to be injected by the dominant party leadership, Sri Madhok has pointed out that the past practices of the party were always akin to those of the Swatantra or the Syndicate. He has also rightly claimed that the leadership has now adopted his stand on the need to recast the country's political map.

NEW NUANCES

It was seen on the issue of "Indianisation" and can as well be seen from the economic slogans that have been worked out at Kanpur, like the Jana Sangh's opposition to Government takeover of wholsale trade in foodgrains or its demand that the issue of lowering land ceiling should be postponed for fifteen years. The crux of the matter has been that dominant party leadership had invariably come round to the proposals of Sri Modhok and had even tried to outdo him, without admitting it in so many words. This is because he has fallen from grace in so far as the RSS bosses are concerned.

The point, however, is that Sri Madhok has failed to recognise the new nuances of the party's policy. The dominant Jana Sangh leadership proceeds from the fact that the erstwhile like-minded parties are either virtually dead, like the Swatantra Party, or irrelevant, like the syndicate.

ANDHRA LESSONS

The dominant leadership of the Jana Sangh has already drawn useful lessons from the separatist movement in Andhra on more than one count. Such movements seem to be the only hope for the party to resuscitate the sagging morale of its cadres. An important gain from the RSS and, therefore, from the Jana Sangh point of view, has been that the party was able to make good use of the anti-land-reforms tactics of the landed gentry and thus give the entire movement an anti-Indira twist.

Therefore, according to the leadership's calculations, similar movements can be developed elsewhere as well. They will easily assume political character which the party needs badly on account of reasons national as well as international The disruption in the Congress in this context provides hope for the Jana Sangh to have more popular and direct allies than through either the Swatantra or the Syndicate.

The Kanpur session also proved beyond doubt that the party is a house divided against itself on this all-important slogan of "redrawing of the political map' of the country. Most powerful attack on this demand was launched by no other than a person from Uttar Pradesh, Sri Nityanand Swanty, MLA from Dehradun. The applause he got from the floor for his views was indicative of the fact that he was not alone.

Another delegate, Sri Shyam Sunder Gupta, had earlier declared that a State of Bundelkhand including in it some districts of UP and Madhya Pradesh if denied by the Centre, would be accomplished through bloodshed. Sri Swamy picked up the arguments of this protagonist and hammered home to the delegates the danger to the unity and integrity of the country. Sri Swamy stood the ground to the last and even pressed his amendment for division. Over twenty-five hands went up in favour of his amendment.

This performance was in total opposition to the leadership. It showed that not only the UP Jana Sangh unit is sharply divided on this issue, even Bihar has a divided mind. More important is that UP and Madhya Pradesh units do not see eye to

(*Contd. on page* 2)

Flower Of Fire

By P. B. SREENIVOS

Cine Play-back Artiste

Never fall in love my friend
If you do, your WILL will bend
Love is a world-load on any head
Steel heart melts like burning lead !

Love is the fragrant Flower of Fire
Each petal made of buring wire
Whoever feels it gets but pain
By Love, often, life is slain !!

Love is, no doubt, Nature's boon
But, is a sad song in a gay tune
Love is a voyage full of storms
Which drawn many a ship of charms !!!

Cob-webs of Sex catch love-flies,
With their silken magnetic lies
Far away from them, you should fly
Otherwise you'll be one such fly !!!!

From Page 1

eye with each other on the Bundelkhand proposal.

COMMUNAL STIGMA

Interestingly, while the leadership readily accepted the Andhra amendment that division of Andhra should not wait for the setting up of the proposed States Reorganisation Commission, it also explained that no State unit should raise similar demands within its sphere without first achieving "complete" identity of views in the Jana Sangh State unit.

The former Jana Sangh MP from New Delhi, Sri M.L. Sondhi, pointed to the communal stigma attached to the party's past policies and practice and wanted it to be removed through an amendment of the party constitution. It was a shock for those who had believed that Sri Sondhi had no admirer in the party when he received applause from the floor and raised the issue for the first time from the highest party platform.

CLAIM ON B' DESH

However, the leadership was able to outmanoeuvre Sri Sondhi by putting up as the next speaker Sheikh Abdur Rahman, the newly elected President of the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit. Sri Rahman also earned applause from the delegates when he sought to debunk Sri Sondhi's proposal by pointing out his own existence as one of the party's leading functionaries in a delicate area like Kashmir.

The Kanpur Jana Sangh session had also the opportunity to hear a delegate from West Bengal, Sri Gurdas Mukerji, who suggested from the rostrum that India should demand three to four districts from Bangladesh with a view to settle the Bengalee refugees who had come to India since Partition.

The Rajmata episode at the Kanpur conference revealed in a flash how deep is the Jana Sangh leaders' devotion to the Prince y order. Sri Diljit Kumar Tandon created history when he demanded from the conference dias that persons like the Rajmata Scindia should not be given undue importance as she was given during the "Shobha Yatra", the presidential procession. Recalling the charge of the party's opponents that the Jana Sangh was a party of the rich and the Rajas, the young Sri Tandon had demanded the party should pass a one-line resolution that it would determinedly fight the Birlas, Tatas and the Rajas and Maharajas.

RAJMATA ISSUE

The issue of Rajmata had been under discussion in the inner and outer parlour of the Jana Sangh only recently when at the behest of the high priest she was sought to be enthroned as the Jana Sangh President. It was too difficult a proposal for many a Jana Sangh State unit to swallow. The proposal was, therefore dropped like a hot potato. The Rajmata herself declared that she had not come to the party for *"pada and pratishtha"*, but had joined it to work for the service of the people.

Sri Tandon gave a tongue to the misgivings inside the Party on this score, for, it is believed she has been already promised the presidental *gaddi* for the next term. Sri Tandon can be justified in his apprehension about the future plans of the party, but Sri Balraj Madhok will also continue to nurse the belief that the party is sedulously pursuing the Rightist course without taking him into confidence.

ON THE COVER

New U. S. Ambassador To India

DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN, the new U. S. Ambassador to India, arrived in New Delhi by a Pan Am flight from Rome, on Feb. 20. He was accompanied by his wife and two children.

The distinguished Harvard academician's appointment to the post was announced by President Richard Nixon on December 11, 1972, and confirmed by the Senate on February 7, 1973.

Dr. Moynihan holds a Ph. D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Massachusetts.

A leading authority on urban affairs, Dr. Moynihan has served three Presidents—John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon—and helped shape some of their major socio-economic programmes. He was the principal architect of the Federal Government's first anti-poverty legislation, which later became the basis of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The measure is generally regarded as a landmark in the recent history of U.S. social reform.

Later, as President Nixon's chief adviser on domestic affairs, Dr. Moynihan devised the Family Assistance Plan which the President presented to Congress in 1971. It is a pragmatic approach designed to abolish present welfare systems and, in their place, introduce a nationwide minimum income ensuring that no family lives below the proverty line.

Dr. Moynihan spent two years at the White House, from January 1969 to January 1671, working as Counsellor to the President and member of his cabinet.

He returned to Harvard in January 1971, and until his new appointment, was on the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Education, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is also a member of Harvard's Centre for International Affairs and an honorary fellow of the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he studied as a Fulbright fellow in 1950. Since 1966, he has been director of the Joint Centre for Urban Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University.

Dr. Moynihan first attracted wide attention as the co-author with Nathan Glazer, of the book, ***Beyond the Melting Pot*** (1963), an authoritative study of minority group in New York City.

In 1965, the Labour Department issued his 78-page report called "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action," written in collaboration with Paul Barton and Ellen Broderick.

Dr. Moynihan was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 16, 1927, but grew up in New York City, where his father, John Henry Moynihan worked as a journalist.

Dr. Moynihan, a Democrat, began his active association with the Democratic Party in 1953, when he campaigned for Robest F. Wagner's election to the Mayoraly of New York City. From 1955 to 1958 he was on the staff of New York Governor Averill Harriman. On May 29, 1955 he married Elizabeth Therese Brennan of Boston, a fellow member of Governor Harriman's staff.

In early 1961, President Kennedy appointed Dr. Moynihan as Special Assistant to Secretary of Labour Arthur M. Goldberg. In 1962, he became Executive Assistant to Goldberg's successor, W. Willard Wirtz, and in March 1963, he became Assistant Secretary of Labour for policy planning and research.

Concurrent with his work in government and politics, Dr. Moynihan continued his academic career, teaching at various universities, including Cornell, Harvard, and Syracuse.

As an expert on urban problems, Dr. Moynihan has served as a consultant to government agencies, Congressional committees, and the President. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1966 and has served as chairman of its Seminar on Poverty.

Dr. Moynihan is accompanied by Mrs. Moynihan who is a painter and soulptor. They have three children—Timothy Patrick, Maura Russell, and John McCloskey, two of whom will attend the American International School in New Delhi.

S. Janaki's 3--Hour Concert

The popular play-back-artiste of South, S. Janaki gave a splendid three–hour light-music concert at Shanmukhananda Hall in Bombay, on the evening of 30th of January, under the auspices of Andhra Maha Jana Sabha of Bombay. She rendered about thirty popular film-hits of Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, and other languages to the delight of a hilarious audience.

Flutist Raju, accompanied her on Harmonium as well as flute and his gimmicks were awarded with claps by the entertained listeners.

A versatile songstress with a spectacular range, S. Janaki is renowned for her flawless diction, accent, pronunciation, flexible voice and lightning flourishes in all the languages she sings. Especially she is gazed with amazement by the discerning critics, when she renders effortessly, the most intricate and complicated Sangathis and Birkas, without effecting any ugly grimaces. Many wonder whether she is the person singing, when she is singing. Her voice alone moves, moving the audience, of course.

Pratibha Patel, the ministress for social welfare, who presided over the musical–nite, was all praise for S. Janaki's remarkable rendering and she reserved no epithets of encomium unshowered on the melodioussongstress.

TIDE GENERATES ELECTRICITY

MOSCOW: Soviet hydropower engineers are studying the possibility of using tidal energy fo electricity generation—a long-standing dream of engineers—in various parts of the USSR. In 1968 the Soviet Union's first tidal station of a capacity of about 1,000 kilowatts became operational in the Kislaya Bay in the Barents Sea. Now work is under way on the design of a station of this type, to be built in the Mezen Bay on the White Sea, whose capacity, according to preliminary estimates, will be several million kilowatts. But the most interesting project is to be built in the Sea of Okhotsk, where the highest tide occurs of all the seas washing the shores of the USSR—12-13 metres. Engineers intend to dam the Penzhina Bay from the Sredhni promontory to the Vodopadny promontory. The dam will be 31.4 kilometres long. The capscity of the tidal station will reach an unprecedented figure in the practice of world hydropower plant construction — 25 million kilowatts.

City Train Timings

With effect from Nov. 1

MADRAS CENTRAL

	Dep.	Arr.
Howrah Janata	8-40	19-15
Tatanagar Exp.	12-40	14-10
Howrah Mail	20-55	5-05
Circars Exp.	22-00	6-40
New Delhi Exp.	8-25	17-55
Hyderabad Exp.	13-35	10-15
Delhi Janata	15-10	15-55
New Delhi-Air-conditioned/Grand Trunk Express*	19-45	10-55
Dadar Express	10-00	17-15
Bombay Janata	13-40	14-00
Bombay Mail	21-50	5-15
Tirupati Exp.	7-00	21-40
Brindavan Exp.	8-10	19-05
Bangalore Exp.	12-45	15-20
Bangalore Mail	21-15	5-40
West Coast Exp.	12-25	14-45
Kerala Express	16-25	9-35
Mangalore Mail	20-20	7-00
Nilagiri Exp.	20-00	7-20
Cochin Mail	19-20	6-10
Gudur Pass.	8-45	22-50
Gudur Pass. (via Arkonam)	—	21-45
Vijayawada Pass.	15-20	12-40
Vijayawada Parcel Passenger	23-45	4-15
Raichur Pass.	9-25	20-10
Tirupati Pass.	17-00	9-45
Bangalore Pass.	6-05	21-00
Jolarpettai Pass.	11-20	14-20
Arkonam Pass.	18-10	—
Coimbatore Parcel Passenger	21-25	6-10

Janata Express—III Class only.

*This train will run as air-conditioned express ex-Madras Central on Mondays and Saturdays and arrive Madras Central on Wednesdays and Fridays. On the other days of the week, it will run as Grand Trunk Express.

MADRAS EGMORE (MAIN LINE)

Rock Fort Express	9-10	17-10
VirudunagarJanata	13-40	7-45
Rameswaram Exp.	19-30	8-05
Tiruchi Pass	6-45	12-05
Villupuram Pass.	15-55	12-05
Trivandrum Pass.	21-30	5-20
Madurai Parcel Passenger	22-25	4-50
Shencottah Pass,	—	21-10
(CHORD LINE)		
Trivandrum Exp.	8-10	18 10
Tirunelveli Exp.	18-15	8-35
Trivandrum Mail	20-30	7-15
Pandyan Exp.	20-10	6-40
Tuticorin Express	21-45	5-40
Rameswaram Passenger	11-00	16-25
MADRAS BEACH		
Chingleput Pass.	17-07	10-40
Kancheepuram Passenger	17-33	9-50
Kancheepuram Passenger *	18-12	9-18

*Will run on all days except on Sundays.

Sunday service will be observed only on Madras Beach-Tambaram Electrified suburban section.

Janata Express—Third Class only.

V. V. S. Aiyar-46

"Kamba Ramayanam--A Study"

By R. A. PADMANABHAN

THE nine months of compulsory rest in prison Aiyar got he utilised to the best by writing a major book of his which he had been planning to do for quite a long time He was put in A Class in Bellary Jail. He had his family, now consisting of Mrs. Bhaghyalakshmi Ammal Aiyar, daughter Subbhadra, aged 10 and son Krishnamurthy, aged 8, stay in the Tungabhadra Ashram of Sri Tarakanath near Bellary so that they could come and see him during permitted monthly visits.

Ever since Aiyar took to the study of Kamban, the Tamil Poet-Emperor, in his youth, he had been fascinated by the rich treasures of Kamban's classic "Rama Kaathai" popularly known as "Kamba Ramayanam". This twelfth century Tamil epic was well-known to the Tamil world but not much known outside. It had earned for Kamban the title "Poet-Emperor" and exposition of "Kamba Ramayanam" had become highly popular in the Tamil country and wherever the Tamils lived. Aiyar had come to love "Kamba Ramayanam" so dearly that he had a copy of it with him when he went to London from Rangoon. And, his desire to share its treasures with others was so great that even during the first two weeks of his arrival in the British capital he had started translating verses from the "Kamba Ramayanam" into English. Again, when in 1910 he had to flee London with the barest minimum essentials, the volumes of "Kamba Ramayanam" were among those few things that found a place in his small suitcase! He could not part with Kamban even at the time of peril. Such was his love of literature, such his love of his mother tongue, such his love of Kamban.

GREAT TREASURES

It had long been Aiyar's contention that the Tamil language had treasures far superior to many vaunted Western classics and that the main reason for their not being known to the wide world was the fact that they had not been translated into English and presented properly to the Western world. As we have seen, in the face of dire peril of exile to distant Algiers he had in 1915 translated at white heat the "Kural" of Tiruvalluvar, the most precious of Tamil literary works as a monument he would like to leave in his memory. Now he felt it was time to translate and present Kamban to the readers of the world But then the "Ramayanam" of Kamban was more than 8,000 verses in length and to present the whole epic in translation would be a huge task indeed. Further, it was Aiyar's desire to show to the non-Tamil world the merits of "Kamba Ramayanam" by assessing it in terms of canons of literary merit adumbrated by Sanskrit and Western authorities. So he pitched upon a literary study of "Kamba Ramayanam" which also included some 4,000 verses of Kamban translated into English.

REQUEST TO FRIEND

The first inkling of the monumental work that he was undertaking was given in a letter to a friend of his, B. Adimurti, in Varanasi, to whom he wrote from jail; "Dear brother, you would have through the newspapers come to know of my stay here. I have still six more months to stay here. I expect they would pass just as the last three months have passed in literary work...You could do me a service. I am writing a study of Kamban. I require in this connection Griffith's English translations of Valmiki's and Tulsidas' Ramayanams and I also require the 'Gita Rahasya' of Lokamanya Tilak. As I cannot think of anyone else who can get them for me, and as at present I have very little money, and as these books will be available in Benares only, I have to trouble you". A list of book titles and shops where they would be available was given, and Aiyar concluded his letter with the words: "I have finished nearly a hundred pages of the work. I am now at present writing the character study of Lakshmana. I expect the book to run to about five hundred pages. Wherever I have quoted any poems from Kamban, I am trying to translate them into verse as far as possible. I hope this work will reveal the glories of Kamban to the scholars of North India and to those Tamilians who have forgotten their Tamil. My address is—V.V.S. Aiyar, No. 65, Central Jail, Bellary."

CHALLENGING IN NATURE

Aiyar's "Kamba Ramayanam —A Study", which is considered his *magnum opus*, is a literary work challenging in its nature. The very opening sentence of the work bears this out.

"It is not easy to convince the literary world at the late hour of day," Aiyar says in the first para of the book, "that there is, unsuspected by the greater part of it, a Tamil poet who is worthy to take rank with the greatest names in literature. It is, however, my purpose in this book to make an attempt to prove that in the Ramayana of Kamba the world possesses an epic which can challenge comparison not merely with the 'Iliad' and the 'Aenied', the 'Paradise Lost' and the 'Mahabharata', but with its original itself, namely the Ramayana of Valmiki. This is not the language of mere patriotic enthusiasm. It is an opinion that has grown slowly with the years and after deep and careful study. And I hope to make the impartial reader rise from the study of this monograph with a conviction of the truth of my contention and with a desire to know more of the poet that what he will see exhibited within the pages of this volume."

KAMBAN EXCELS

This is followed by the statement: "I spoke of Valmiki's work as the original of Kamban's Ramayana. But Kamban has not translated Valmiki. He has merely taken the story immortalised by the Aryan sage and, though he has followed it closely enough in all its details, has written an entirely original poem but you must not call it Homer.' Of Kamban's Ramayana we should say reversing the language, 'It is not Valmiki's Ramayana, but it is a grander poem."

The story of the Ramayana is detailed in the next chapter, and in the next ones the question of narration, the architectonics of the epic by Kamban and the play of the supernatural element in the classic are considered. Studies of the characters in the story—Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata, Indrajit, Vibhishana, Kumbakarna, Vali, Sugriva, Hanuman, Ravana and Sita—follow, showing by comparison with Valmiki, Homer, Virgil, Dante and Milton where Kamban has excelled. Aiyar did not live to complete the last chapter, the study of Sita, but the work was completed by an admirer when the book was posthumously published in 1950.

The vast, erudite, multilingual learning and scholarship of Aiyar is fully evidenced throughout the book. The various authorities he has cited for some literary dictum or the other include Aristotle, Horace, Milton, Bioleau, Valmiki, Dandin and Chateubriand, while those with whom Aiyar compares Kamban's Ramayana include Valmiki, Tulsidas, Bhaskara (auth r of the Telugu Ramayana), Homer and Milton.

SATISFIES THE SOUL

"The build and structure of the Ramayana of Kamban," says Aiyar "are superb. The poem satisfies the soul with its *ampleur* the proportion of its parts, and

(*Contd. on page* 10)

THE FAMOUS ASTROLOGER (OFFICE ESTD : 1924)
Recipient of many gold Medals and Certificates from Maharajas, Judges and Notables. Annual life reading, monthly details Rs.5/-. 3 questions Rs. 2/-. Horoscope or writing time required.
Vivaga Poruthangal in Tamil Re. 1
Jotish Janabodhini—Tamil Rs 2-50
Pt. Kaliyur M.Srinivasa Chariar
"THAPO'NITH:" Phone: 443654
Thyagarayanagar, Madras-17.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

TRUE TO HIS TRADE

Along the dark and lonely road plodded a solitary figure. Behind him lurked three shadows, which chose their moment and sprang.

Three to one! The odds were heavily against the victim, but did he falter? Not on your life! One by one his assailants were sent flying, to lie bruised and stunned on the cold, wet ground.

Up dashed a policeman. He surveyed the wreckage, and then turned to the hero, who was coolly lighting a cigarette.

"Ju-jutsu?" he asked admiringly.

"No." was the reply. "Railway porter."

* * *

A HITLER STORY

Hitler was making a tour of a German lunatic asylum. All the inmates lined up, and—as soon as the Dictator appeared—stood smartly to attention and gave the Nazi salute, all except one man at the end of the line

"Hi!" screamed Adolf. "Why aren't you saluting?"

"Don't be silly," said the man, "I'm one of the guards here, not one of the inmates!"

* * *

FALSE ALARM

A customer was sitting in a barber's chair when a man burst into the shop shouting: "Hi! Mr. Smith's house is on fire!"

The customer shot out of the chair, dashed for the door, and ran like a hare up the street. After a time he stopped suddenly.

"Gosh!" he gasped, "my name isn't Smith!"

* * *

MAD MODES

"I say," said the first man, "has your wife been fighting?"

"Fighting?" exclaimed the second man, startled, "Of course not! What makes you think that?"

"Well, what's that pad over her eye for?"

"Pad? That's not a pad; it's her new hat."

CHECKED

A traveller was walking along a country road when he came across an old man. Addressing him, he asked how long it would take him to get to the next village. But the man went on with his work, neither speaking nor looking up. The traveller went on his way.

He had not gone far when he heard a call: "Hey, mister! Come back!"

The traveller returned, when the old man said: "It'll take you twenty minutes."

"Why did you not tell me that when I asked you?" said the traveller.

"How did I know how fast you was going to walk?" retorted the old man.

Whitehall Humour

A new and true "white feather" story from Whitehall:

An old Blimp, a soldier, and a young civilian were travelling in the same railway compartment.

The Blimp talked to the soldier, extolled his bravery, extended his adulation to all men in the fighting Services, and referred pointedly and repeatedly to young men in civilian dress who failed to do their duty in the war.

The young civilian was quiet until the train stopped at a station. Then he got up to leave.

"I'd like you to know," he said to the Blimp, "that I work in the Foreign Office. If it hadn't been for us you wouldn't have had your war at all."

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED !

"What on earth is the matter with this shaving brush?" stormed the husband. "It's as hard as iron and won't bend at all. It was as right as ninepence yesterday morning."

"It certainly was all right yesterday, dear," replied his wife. "When I touched up the paint in the bathroom it was in splendid condition."

* * *

ANXIOUS TO PLEASE

Having engaged a young maid straight from school, the sub-urban housewife was giving her some hints.

"Now, Mary," she said presently, "you must always call me 'mum' when you speak to me."

"Oh, I couldn't call you that," replied the girl; but I'll call you 'auntie' if you like."

* * *

"Goods dispatched to their destination with the rapidity of shell."—A Baker.

UP-TO-DATE

At a village singing contest the local baritone sang "The Village Blacksmith" with so much satisfaction to himself that he felt sure of getting first place.

Instead, he came second, and rather curtly asked the judges for an explanation.

"Well, you made rather a bad slip," he was told. "Instead of 'Each, morning sees some task begun, each evening sees its close,' you sang 'Each evening sees some task begun, each morning sees its cloce.' "

"Well," retorted the baritone, "didn't you know the blacksmith has been on the night shift lately?"

* * *

FICKLE

She returned from the dance in a fearful temper.

"I have no confidence in men," she told her mother.

"But why not, dear?"

The girl pursed her lips.

"Every time I go to a dance with another boy I find my own boy friend there with another girl," she explained.

* * *

THE DIFFERENCE

A slightly deaf sportsman, feeling run down, consulted his doctor who, after examination, prescribed carrot, and plenty of it.

"How shall I take it?"

"Anyway you like it, and as much as you like."

A month later the patient returned in bursting health.

"Capital," said the doctor. "Carry on with the carrot."

"The what? Carrot, good heavens! I thought you said claret I've been drinking a bottle a day for the last month!"

* * *

IT ALL DEPENDS

Over the garden fence, the man at No. 10 said:

"Can I have the loan of you lawn-mower this evening?"

"Sorry," replied No. 8 "but I shall be using it to trim the hedge."

"But you can't trim a hedge with a lawn-mower," protested No. 10.

"You can do anything with a lawn-mower if you don't want to lend it," retorted No. 8.

* * *

FOR USE

"Here's a book," said the persistent salesman, "you can't afford to be without."

"I never read."

"Well buy it for the children."

"I'm single—I have no family. All I have is a dog."

"Well, don't you want a nice heavy book to throw at the dog now and then?"

Not Likely

A tourist seated outside a hotel Florida was watching a Negro porter as he swept the floor. Deftly but slowly the man made little piles of the scattered cigarette ends, half-burnt matches, and litter which had accumulated the night before. The morning was rather warm, and clouds were gathering in the sky.

"Sambo," said the tourist, "don't you think there is an excessive amount of humidity in the atmosphere today?"

"What's dat?" exclaimed the Negro, wiping the perspiration from his face.

"I was merely extending an interrogation to learn if you thought it was going to rain," answered the tourist.

"Well, I never," said the porter. "Does you reckon I would be wastin' my time pushin' dis broom if I had sense enuff to prognosticate de precipitation of an adequate amount of liquidity?"

THE RIDDLE

A Londoner visiting Sheffield became friendly with the clerk in his hotel, and the two frequently regaled each other with jokes and riddles. One day the clerk called the Londoner over and said: "Here's a good riddle for you. My mother and father had a child, but it wasn't my brother and it wasn't my sister. Who was it?"

"I don't know. Who was it?"

"It was me."

* * *

The Londoner was much amused and upon his return to town he tried the joke on one of his friends.

"Look here," he said. "I heard a jolly good riddle in Yorkshire I'll spring it on you, My mother and father had a child, and it wasn't my brother and it wasn't my sister. Who was it? Give up? Give up?"

"Yes, I give up."

"Ha! ha! it was the bally old hotel clerk in Sheffield:"

* * *

TOO RISKY

The vicar was having a serious chat with one of his flock about her son.

"Tom needs education, Mrs. Jones," he said; "it is very important. I had to pinch like any thing to send my sons to college, but it was worth it."

"Maybe," replied Mrs. Jones; "but my husband's too afraid of the law to do anything like that."

* * *

SO MANY

How long have you been in service?"

"Nearly a year, mum."

"Have you any testimonials?"

"About thirty!"

THE SHOW GOES ON

ANYTHING "capable of living" or "able to maintain a separate existence" is viable, according to the dictionary.

So what does Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan mean by pretending that there is no "viable" opposition party in the country, and laying down conditions for conjuring up one?

"JP" has long been engaged in this business of lending "moral support" and being "available for consultation and advice," and his announcement after a huddle with Mr. Biju Patnaik that he is still there for these purposes really does not take us very far—nor even him, that matter.

The Socialist Party and the resurrected SSP have gone far without him, and there is nothing to indicate that either took advantage of the standing offer, although the occasional obeisance in the appropriate direction was not forgotten, something like what certain Congressmen do in the case of Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

* * *

Are the SP and the SSP viable or not? Political pundits may differ, and even "JP" when in the mood may pronounce himself adversely on his former chelas, but they are by the definition cited at the start of this column quite viable plus. Plus because the PSP was viable by itself despite the hurried exit of Mr. Asoka Mehta; and the merger of last year, duly blessed this year at Bulandshar, has added value. The faction that now calls itself SSP and claims the Lohia mantle exclusively has gone out, and that is minus. But the minus is less than the plus, and the rest is simple arithmetic plus some ideology plus of course some verbal gymnastics.

The trouble with JP is that he has once again set out from a demonstrably untenable premise, namely, that there is no viable opposition party now; from the wrong premise arises the wrong deduction that he is in a position to introduce viability without himself getting involved. Something like God injecting life force into your system without Himself getting into it.

* * *

The only new development which gave JP an opportunity to propound his viability theory was Mr. Biju Patnaik's pilgrimage to seek Sarvodaya blessings for his brand new venture in Orissa—blessings-cum-patronage as it were. No one has yet seen the Orissa developments as a challenge from the Left to the Right, and the colourful combination Mr. Patnaik has worked out against Mrs Nandini Satpathy does not strike one as a solid Left phalanx. Yet JP has considered it necessary to declare in this context with wonted solemnity that he has doubts "whether the Left parties can be bound for a viable opposition." This is in keeping with Indian philosophical traditions which pose hypothetical questions and produce hypothetical answers, so as to keep the debate going.

The whole trouble arises only because JP, like many others, has begun to see the purpose of political parties merely as securing power and using it. This shows that he has learnt little from the thrilling history of the Socialist Party in its many avatars. Once you get power, you cease to be part of the Permanent Revolution, and this truth all Socialists understand, none more than Mr. Raj Narain. They all make obeisance to JP, so it's passing strange that JP should not have imbibed some of their wisdom all these long years.

* * *

JP's utterances raise a very serious suspicion. Is he trying to make out that only the Congress is a viable political party, that there is no other? If this is so, there is urgent need to debunk him and his ideas. "Viable" is a word applicable to a variety of organisms, and sometimes these days even to certain kinds of situations. A political party is an organism, even if there be doubt about its being an organic whole, or about what is organic to it. The surest test of viability is obviously survival, and by this test most of our political parties are viable, whatever JP may think or say. Even Mr. Biju Patnaik is politically viable by his yardstick, for doesn't he pop up in Orissa politics with amazing frequency? And then there is Mr. Charan Singh, of course. Their viability is important because, as in the case of Mr. Narain, the relevant party rotates round each of them, and the parties are presumably as viable as they are.

JP's attitude is ambivalent, to say the least. Take Mr Morarji Desai, on the other hand. He has declared, for example, that he is "determined to lay down my life to defend democracy and prevent its replacement by any sort of dictatorship." Here is a man ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for the country, but JP will not even take the initiative for "a left-oriented national front" although he asserts that he does want a viable opposition party. He wants a strong opposition, but it has to create itself and present its credentials before it can hope to get his blessings. Some people are difficult to please.

* * *

Real politicians are different; they are not given to woolly philosophising. A solid example is Mr. George Fernandes. Every time he delivers a speech he feels stronger and clearer, with the "will to power" ever more pronounced. So far as he is concerned, an anti-Congress front will be of help to those who are lost in the wilderness, though he does not care much one way or the other. The SP, under his dynamic leadership, "will emerge as leading contender for power in Uttar Pradesh" and once U.P. is in his pocket, Delhi cannot be far away. This is a danger which Mr. Charan Singh's BKD and the Jan Sangh presumably see clearly. Hence their demand that UP be cut up into small pieces. Dear George must expose this conspiracy to deprive his party of power; the dragon must be vanquished.

There is one question which remains. Is that which is viable stable? George should be able to answer this question. And is that which is stable viable? The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu may be able to answer that one.

—Witness in the National Herald, Lucknow.

SERIOUS REVERSE

Two revellers were driving along the highway when a policeman stopped them.

"Look here," he demanded, "what's the idea of driving back-wards?"

"Backwards?"

"Yes!" snapped the arm of the law, "Backwards!"

They looked at each other.

"I say," mused the second one, "no wonder it's taking us so long to get home."

25th Anniversary of India's Independence

The Publications Division, on this occasion, presents a series of handy pamphlets written by eminent persons highlighting the country's achievements in various fields during the last 25 years in a language which can be understood by the layman and the student alike. The authors of these pamphlets have had long association with their subjects and have made a significant contribution in their own spheres of activity. Besides telling the reader what we have achieved so far, the pamphlets also give a critical assessment of the past, and a projection in the future.

A set of the following 12 titles, contained in a beautiful carton, is available at Rs. 6/-(post free) :-

1. ATOMIC ENERGY by : H. N. Sethna
2. CULTURAL SCENE by : J. C. Mathur
3. DEFENCE by : K. Subramanyam
4. FOREIGN RELATIONS by : T. N. Kaul
5. IRRIGATION by : K. L. Rao
6. OIL & PETROCHEMICALS by K. D. Malaviya
7. POWER DEVELOPMENT by : S Swayambu
8. REHABILITATION by : P. N. LUTHRA
9. SHIPPING by : C. P. Srivastava
10. SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES by : C.R. Sundaram
11. STEEL by : Jahangir Ghandy
12. TRANSPORT by : G. S. Khosla

50 Paise each

UNDER PREPARATION:

1. AGRICULTURE by : A. P. Shinde
2. EDUCATION by : Prem Kirpal
3. FOREIGN TRADE by : L. N. Mishra
4. HOUSING by : S. K. Joglekar
5. MASS COMMUNICATION by : Asok Mitra
6. PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY by : L. M. Singhvi
7. SPORTS by : Raja Bhalindra Singh

ADDRESS YOUR ORDER/ENQUIRY TO :

DIRECTOR, PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

NEW DELHI : 1. Patiala House
2. Yojana Bhavan (for cash sales only)

CALCUTTA : 8, Esplanade East, (Ground floor)
BOMBAY : Botawala Chambers, Sir P. M. Road.
MADRAS : Shastri Bhavan, 35, Haddows Road,

davp72/720

THUS SPAKE

THE MAHATMA

No big or swift movement can be carried on without bold risks, and life will not be worth living if it is not attended with large risks.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Feb. 25, 1973

RELIEF URGENT

The power cut has come to stay.

It is futile now to search for scapegoats.

The right approach now must be to see how best to tide over the crisis.

Inciting labour to demonstrate against the power cut will be just foolishness.

The most affected is the small scale sector and its labour.

Agitations may or may not produce political power. It will certainly not yield electric power.

The Government without standing on false prestige seek the cooperation of all the parties in tackling the situation.

With increasing cost of almost all essential commodities, the misery is there for all classes of people. With less income due to lay off and rise in costs, life is going to be intolerable in the coming months.

Relief measures must be launched before a real law and order problem develops in the State.

Drawing on savings like provident fund will not be advisable in the long run. Better sources must be found for affording relief.

"One Asia Assembly": Ominous Junket

C. N. CHITTA RANJAN

IT has always been "One Asia" for a certain type of peripatetic "journalist" who has mysterious financial resources that enable him to hop from capital to capital in the region, now Delhi, now Bangkok, now Singapore, now Manila, now Hong Kong, now Tokyo, and over and over again on the highly profitable round, constantly on the move, by air, staying at posh hotels and meeting similarly busy gentlemen to discuss how best common interests can be furthered.

The average Indian journalist, even the better paid one, does not command the means to fly even to cities within the country, not to speak of sojourns at five-star hotels, hence the importance and glamour of the man who makes going to these distant places seem like visits to one's backyard. He is influential even with certain high officials of the Government, and finds it easy to manage to occupy an important place wherever, the press is discussed, whatever the majority of journalists may think of him and his activities. He recognises the superiority of only one variety of "journalist", namely, the one to whom it is "One World" instead of "One Asia". The latter is obviously superior because he comes from the Western world and is entitled to lay down the law for his Asian stooge who evidently needs the patronage if the wanderings and all that go with the wanderings are to be maintained.

* * *

The "One Asia Assembly" held with much fanfare in the Indian capital and duly publicised by the Big Business press was a joint project of these two varieties of operators with the massive support of Big Business interests in this country and their agents in the administration. The list of gentlemen from the press who participated in the proceedings has its own tale to tell.

To give two examples, Sri G. Narasimhan of the *Hindu* has for long years been part of the International Press Institute whose cold war politics is not unfamiliar in this country; he was one of the chief instruments in bringing into being the Indian counterpart of the IPI, the Press Institute of India, which was floated in Madras and established in Delhi with a sociable journalist picked from a Big Business newspaper as its director. There is no need to go into Sri G. Narasimhan's importance in the organisations of newspaper proprietors.

Then there is Sri G. Kasturi, also of the *Hindu*, who is the 'editor" because he is the dominant one in the family that runs the show. His contempt for working journalists, well known in the south, was not kept hidden from the Delhi congregation; he spoke of "the editorial staff doing its work at the bidding of the editor", in the case of his own newspaper, himself. To him the working journalists constitute "the tail".

* * *

Great editors in this country and elsewhere have seen the editorial staff as a team working in harmony, with the editor functioning as the leader and guide of the team, responsible on behalf of the team for the paper's character and contents. But "managing editors" of whom the Press Commission has said enough and "editors" of the type of Sri Kasturi are made of different stuff. They are the bosses, and let there be no nonsense.

It is the like of these who, with the help of willing tools ready to run errands, first set up the Press Institute of India, with the blessing of the IPI and assured of financial help from certain shady foundations of America. Defence of proprietorial interests and firm establishment of big business control over newspapers and other mass media are objectives of interest not only to the tycoons of the Indian press. Hence the coming into being of the Press Foundation of Asia (PFA), a regional forum for an international brotherhood engaged in the pursuit of common objective.

It is no secret that the PFA has been presumptuously pronouncing itself on the state of affairs in various countries and issuing edicts about who should do what. The Bali resolution, which has been described long after its passage as one meant for internal consumption by the PFA Board, was a brazen effort to browbeat the Government of India into surrendering to the pressure of the monopoly press and giving up the proposals for delinking and diffusion of ownership of newspapers in the country.

* * *

What the PFA said then was no different from what the spokesmen of the monopoly press and their friends outside the press in India had been saying earlier. What is really creditable is that the organisers of the PFA and the PII have been able, by persistent salesmanship, to entice all kinds of highly placed individuals to attend their meetings and give the two organisations an air of respectability.

The one case in which their calculations went wrong was when Smt Indira Gandhi punctured the "One Asia" balloon by pinpointing what precisely is wrong with the Indian press and what needs to be done to make it genuinely independent of the business and industrial interests that control the major part of it. Even Sri I. K. Gujral, sensing the general mood, decided to do some plain-speaking, especially on the neo-imperialistic aims involved in the bright projects satellite and other such types of mass communication.

So far as the purpose for which the press is being used today by vested interests is concerned, it is difficult to improve on the factual statement made by the Prime Minister at the Delhi gathering: "In our own country, freedom of the press is being used to further property interests...We feel that it would be useful, even in these days of advertisement dominance, to maintain a distinction between the editorial room and the business office."

* * *

This, all honest working journalists in India feel, is the crux of the problem; hence their demand over the years for diffusion of ownership of newspapers and for the conversion of the big news agencies into corporations or the like so as to free them from the stranglehold of industrial houses which have consistently been misusing them to project their own interests as well as to distort or suppress points of view or information not palatable to them.

Smt Gandhi is concerned for the growth of small newspapers that can truly reflect the urges and aspirations and difficulties of people in different localities; this is a concern which the working journalists have shared over the years, leading to their repeated demand for a price-page schedule and special facilities for the starting and development of small newspapers throughout the country. But these are not the problems with which the PFA and the PII are concerned. Their interests lie elsewhere, and surely it is not fair to expect them to defy the financiers who make their colourful jamborees possible, not to speak of the peregrinations of the leading lights of these organisations.

The operators who organised the Manila show earlier and the Delhi show recently are unimportant so far as the press is concerned, and even so far as other mass media are concerned despite efforts by high-ups in All India Radio and Television to project them as the most important factors in the Indian press. They are mere mouthpieces, and journalists as a whole are quite aware of this fact. Nevertheless they represent a danger of which at least the political leadership in this

(Contd. on page 7)

From page 6

'One Asia Assembly'

country and in other Asian countries should become aware.

The deliberations in Delhi have made it clear that there is an inspired plan to set up a new Asian organisation to secure influence if not control over the mass media in the region. The Government and others concerned should first of all ask themselves why, even if such an organisation should be considered necessary at some stage, the same old operators with their known record should play any part in planning it or in organising it. It is urgently necessary for the Governments of the region to go into the antecedents of every individual who claims some importance in the PFA and its agencies in different countries.

And it is equally necessary for working journalists to expose these persons and unitedly resist the mass media being mortgaged to a group whose purpose is to protect vested interests that control newspapers and to project the interests of countries ourside the region. The CIA's activities in different countries including ours are now quite familar; what has to be understood is that organisations like the PFA are merely serving the same aims on a different plane.

It it surprising to those who unders and the purpose of those who organised the *tamasha* in Delhi that there was no worthwhile discussion on the real problems of the press in India and the developing countries, on what comes in the way of the Indian press, for example, being a genuinely independent press. The show was meant chiefly to project the PFA as the only relevant factor so far as the future of mass media in the region is concerned.

The variety of subjects chosen for desultory discussion represented an attempt to divert attention from the basic problems of the press and other media; the roping in of a large number of VIPs was to make it appear that the PFA is indeed a respectable affair. It is to be hoped that the VIPs have not been taken in.

A sample of what organisations like the PFA would like to avoid is provided by the failure of the PII all these years to take up for investigation the monopoly conditions and restrictive practices in the Indian priess, althougn it has conducted a whole series of pointless "projects" and spent money on these. The projects have helped no one except the direct beneficiaries.

* * *

On the other hand, the attempt of such organisations has been to pretend that "freedom of the press" is threatened only by Governments. That certain types of Governments do interfere with the press is a fact and such interference has to be condemned and resisted. In India this has not been true. Under Jawaharlal Nehru and subsequently, the Government has treated the press with the greatest respect, and attempts by a few State Governments to browbeat a newspaper here or there have been only an aberration.

In India the problem has been the hold the big industrial houses have secured over the bulk of the press; the big industrial houses have used their influence over certain bureaucrats and politicians to tighten their grip over the press, and they virtually control the two major news agencies. For them "freedom of the press" is freedom for themselves to continue to mislead public opinion and campaign against parties and policies that are in the interests of the common people of this country, the poor majority. This is precisely the "freedom" that the PFA, the PII and similar other bodies want to defend with all their might and with all the money available to them.

* * *

That the "press barons" and industrial houses should finance such junkets is quite understandable; it is money spent on public relations work to protect their own interests. But why should Government spend public money on these? The Prime Minister put the organisers in their place by her forthright speech, but that is not enough. It must be ensured that public money and public financed facilities are not allowed to be used by organisasations like the PFA and the PII which represent certain clearly defined interests and are of no practical use to the starving miljions of the region.

"Stewardship of the mass media"—aptly described as 'an abysmally silly tilly title"—is not a matter to be decided by a handful of individuals shining in borrowed affluence and acting at other people's behest It is a matter for the genuine working journalists and active employees of the mass media to think about,

Let the spurious Foundations keep of the mass media. It is these which, through the PFAs and the PIIs, seek to build the "communication empires" dominated by "the rich and the resourceful societies", to which Sri Gujral referred. And it is these against which not only newspaper and media men but all leaders of public opinion in the developing countries should be on guard.

So far as India is concerned, delinking and diffusion of ownership of newspapers cannot wait much longer, if the aim is to prevent active subversion of national policies aimed at the creation of a society based on justice; social, economic and political.

—*Mainstream*

Main Route Of The North

MOSCOW: The Arctic seas have become an important transport route of the USSR, the famous polar explorer Ivan Papanin said commanding on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Central Northern Sea Route Administration. Ivan Papanin was in charge of the world first Soviet "North Pole" drifting station.

Great change have taken plac in the Soviet Far North in the forty years. In what were once uninhabited regions with a severe climate, cities, industrial settlements and mining enterprfses have been built and reindeer breeding state farms have been set up. The main route that links them with the European part of the country is the 5,000 kilometre-long Northern Sea Route. A special steamship line has been established for serving this route. Its fleet includes up-to-date diesel electric ships and powerful ice-breakers with the nuclear-powered Lenin ice-breaker at the head. They have helped to almost double the Arctic navigation time.

Stuttgart (INB) Andrea Rau, one of the Federal Republic of Germany's most popular young film stars, now wears a dress more per film! Following her first film success Quartett in Bed (Quarted in Bed) journalists awarded her "the title the best strip doll,there ever was". She was discovered for the screen as the "topless" cover girl and photo model of the satirical magazine "Pardon". "So far I've had every reason to be very pleased", explains starlet Andrea for ' Ive discovered I'm doing well as an actress as well as a girl who takes her clothes off!" Andrea hails from Stuttgart and at the age of seven she was taking ballet lessons. Later she was a member of the Stuttgart Ballet under John Cranko. Then she received parts in the musicals "Kiss me Kate" and "Can-Can".Her mother, a pianist must bear part of the blame for her success. She always made sure that her little daughter was also a busy girl.

HER COMPLIMENT

Fred was showing his sweetheart the old family album, and pointed out a particular photograph of which he was very proud. It depicted him as a sailor suit, sitting on his uncle's knee.

"There, what do you think of that one?" he said.

"Very nice," his sweetheart said. "But who is the ventriloquist?"

* * *

FROM THE ADS

"Our salesmen are as amiable as a father trying to marry off his daughter."—General Stores.

SHORT STORY

We Have No Tickets !

By VIKTOR GOLYAVKIN

WE made the rounds of the part and stopped to watch people jumping from a parachute tower. Some jumped of their own accord, others had to be prodded a little, and many landed on all fours.

It was so funny we laughed our heads off. Then we elbowed our way to the entrance, mixed with a foreign delegation of a hundred parachute-jumping fans, and sneaked in.

It feels great to steal past an unsuspecting ticket collector. A rare piece of luck, if you look at it this way!

We followed the foreign visitors up the stairs.

The tower played a man trick on us. Viewed from below it didn't seem so high but when we looked down from the top we thought the whole thing wasn't so funny after all.

As for myself, I decided to let the guests do the jumping. It might be their only chance to jump from a parachute tower in our country. We were in our home country, anyway, and could do it any day.

Furthermore, we simply had no right to jump without tickets. It would be against the rules. The foreigners had got their tickets all right, so let them jump. That's what they came for.

"Get a move on, comrade foreigners, will you?" the man in charge of strapping told us.

"What sort of foreigners do you take us for?" I asked him.

"I don't care what country you come from," he replied. "We've only got one parachute for all."

"We have no tickets," I said.

"All of us have tickets," the foreigners said.

"But we haven't! We are Soviet!" Sashka shouted.

"The tickets are downstairs," foreigner chimed in. "Our chief has them."

"We've got no chief!" Sashka retorted. "We are all equal. They've got a chief, not we."

"Will you jump or won't you?" the strap man asked.

"No, we won't!" we shouted in chorus.

"You'll jolly well have to, my lads," he said, scowling at us. "This is the only way out. On the stairs the traffic is strictly one-way—that's up!"

He grabbed Sashka and strapped him in the parachute.

"Off you go!"

"Where?" Sashka asked.

The man gave him a light shove, and Sashka went sailing down with a scream. I felt ashamed of him. The coward!

Then it was Yurka's turn. He didn't scream. He just shivered.

"What right have you to push people?" I asked.

The man said nothing. He was too busy fastening me to the parachute.

"If you dare push me, I shall report you to your boss!" I said.

Then the shove came.

I landed on all fours.

"That's how we landed, too," Yurka and Sashka said, to soothe me.

"Oh, who cares," I said straightening up.

"What really eats me is that the foreigners may think badly of us."

"You're right there," Sashka said. "We jumped from our Soviet tower at their expense. We've got to put that straight."

We bought tickets, went up to the top of the tower and said: "Here, take these. We are sorry." It worked out rather awkward, with all these foreigners looking on..."

I tried to explain that we were not going to jump, that we just wanted to put ourselves right with the foreigners—but the man hitched the straps on me without further ado.

Sashka and Yurka wanted to beat it, but couldn't—the stairs were blocked by more members of the foreign delegation on their way up.

In a word we reunited down below again.

"No more for me," Sashka said.

"But what will the foreigners say?"

"You and your blessed foreigners!" Yurka growled.

Tungus Meteorite Mystery Unveiled

NOVOSIBIRSK; (USSR) The famous Tungus meteorite turned out just a small comet, it has been concluded by the Soviet last expeditions which operated in the Siberian taiga forets. The scientists have completely rejected the hypothesis according to which this was a fragment of a hard substance or an exploded nuclear-powered spaceship from another civilisation. Such views were based on the huge scope of the catastrophe which occured in 1908 when, at least, 60,000 trees suffered from the fall of the comet. Now the scientists have found concomitant substances which appear as a result of an explosion of a comet nuclei and consist of frozen gas and cosn ic dust.

"You will always be welcome here as a ray of sunshine after a rainy day." —Tea room.

The Vacuum Is Filled For These Children Now

THE manufacturers of Eagle Flasks have just announced a scheme under which it has undertaken to provide for the welfare and rehabilitation of fourteen children of war-widows bereaved by the recent Indo-Pak war.

This was announced in connection with a cultural function organised by the War Widows' Association, a voluntary organisation playing a laudable role in combating the tragic plight of war-widows. President Giri, who presided over the function, made an impassioned appeal to the nation to fulfil its obligation towards the widows and children of the jawans who sacrificed their lives in the defence of our motherland.

Eagle Flasks rose to the occasion by immediately announcing its intention to make a monthly allowance of fifty rupees to each of the fourteen children every month for a period of two years. And thus offered to do its bit to bring relief and succour of these homes shattered by the war.

Several times before Eagle Flasks have fallen solidly behind national efforts directed at benefiting the armed forces. In addition to direct contributions to the Nstional Defence Fund, Eagle Flasks' tribute to our valiant fighting forces has been expressed in concrete terms to include a donation of one thousand one flasks for the use of the disabled jawans, at a function in Poona in the presence of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Earlier, in November 1962, Eagle Flasks made a similar donation of six hundred flasks for use by the jawans defending our snow-bound frontiers against the Chinese aggression.

EAGLE FLASK WINS EXPORT BADGE

In recognition of their Export efforts Eagle Vacuum Bottle Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd, leading manufacturers and exportess of Vacuum Flasks and Insulated Products, have been awarded the Export Badge and Certificate for the year 1971-72 by the Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the third year in succession.

The Hippie Era Is Over

IN the latter half of the sixties city streets in the West were literally flooded with queer-looking long-haired young men and women with painted faces who called themselves the "flower children" or "hippies." There were especially many of them in the United States. They came from middle-class well-to-do families.

Living between rock 'n' roll and the shadow of the nuclear bomb, many young Americans turned away from the world of fear, greed, egoism and violence and sought to create a community of their own built on trust and love. "They want to be recognized as individuals, but individuals play a smaller and smaller role in society," the late Robert Kennedy said. Ignorant of the motive forces of social development, they looked for the truth in Buddhist philosophy, Gandhian passive resistance, religion, hallucigenic drugs.

They performed the rites of their cult as festivals, usually in the hippie capital—San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district. Breaking camp, they smoked pot and "vibrated" to jukebox rhythms. They called it taking a "trip". The word "hippie" derives from "hep" which gradually evolved into "hip" and then to "hippie."

The authorities tolerated the hippies because they did not consider them socially dangerous. The hippies did not covet power. Although they sometimes joined protesters against the war in Vietnam and civil rights fighters, they were absolutely apolitical. Having no political leaders and no programme, they soon became ordinary dope addicts and many degenerated completely and became criminals. The capitalist press has seized upon this to discredit the youth and the Left movement in general. And although barefoot young men and women still roam the streets in Western cities, the utopian idea of building an apolitical society within the framework of the old social system has outlived itself. The brief hippie era is over.

...Strange But True...

Doubting Charlie

Among those invited to the launching of Apollo-17 from Cape Kennedy was 130-year-old Charlie Smith of Barlow, Florida. He was invited because he refused to believe that man had really set foot on the Moon. It was all a newspaper trick, he said. Incidentally, two Chicago newspapers made a survey in Charlotte, North Caroline, and found that 17 per cent of those interviewed were convinced that the landing of American astronauts on the Moon was "only a Hollywood fake".

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

"THROUGH THE AGES AND FOR ALL TIMES"

THE pleasant function got up recently by the citizens of Kalinin (formerly Tver) on the bank of the Volga to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Afanasi Nikitin's return to Russia after his historic visit to India during the years 1469-72 was a grand success and my railway trip to participate in the celebration was certainly worth the while.

The people of Kalinin are proud of their great ancestor Afanasi Nikitin, the first Russian to have visited India. They have erected his statue at the heart of the city and the bronze plaque fixed to the pedestal reads, "To Afanasy Nikitin, the courageous Russian explorer, in memory of his friendly visit made to India 1469-1472."

Yevgeny Chelyshev, Vice-President of the Society of Soviet-Indian Cultural Relations, Nikolai Smirnov, Deputy Chief of the Asia Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Members of the Staff of the Indian Embassy in Moscow led by the Ambassador Mr. K. S. Shelvankar and several others from Moscow participated in the celebrations. The function was a typical demonstration of the growing friendship binding the Soviet and Indian peoples.

The visitors first went to Afanasi Nikitin's monument where Mr. Shelvankar placed a wreath and later participated in a public meeting which was a token of profound gratitude to the outstanding Russian who had planted the first seeds of friendship between the two great peoples.

Mr. Chelyshev, the well-known Soviet Indologist addressing the meeting said, "we Russian people are proud of and deeply respect, Afanasy Nikitain for having brought us the news of far-off India, back in the hoary past and for describing his travels in the book Voyage Beyond Three, Seas; the book contains not only tales of 'wonder' in the faraway fabulous country but also the description, made with great feeling and sympathy, of life, customs and traditions of the common people of India.

Svetlana Kayukhina, a worker at the Printing press where the India magazine, published by the Indian Embassy in the USSR is printed, in her address described the friendship between the two peoples as "continuing through the ages and for all times".

Mr. Shelvankar said that Indians knew the name of Afanasy Nikitin very well, for any student of the history of India learns about this glorious son of the Russian people.

SOUND ASLEEP—BUT ONLY JUST

"In a sound, light sleep." That sounds like a contradiction in terms, doesn't it?

The Academy of Medical Sciences, however, has got a number of hospitals to try out a new device, Ritmosan, which is soon to be produced in large quantities for further experiment.

The name means "rhythm sound," and the purpose is to make a patient suffering from insomnia fall asleep more quickly.

This is brought about by a sequence of soothing sounds and lights, which between them lull the mind and tire the eyes.

Ritmosan is about the size of an ordinary telephone, and the sounds come from a tiny speaker and the light through two slits.

The quality of light and sound varies automatically according to monitored changes in the patient—his pulse, breathing, eye-movements and so on.

Ritmosan has also proved effective in the treatment of high blood pressure, nervous complaints, stomach ulcers and stammering.

* * *

IN AMBITIOUS 'WILD LIFE' SERIES ON TV

I love nature programmes on television, and recently saw a preview of the first of a new series made by Boris Kramenko for the Central TV Studios.

It was a general survery of the whole country, lasting a couple of hours.

Later programmes will cover specific areas in greater detail. It showed the Baikal and Barguzin nature reserves, where they took the first large scale steps to prevent the sable dying out and subsequently re-stocked huge areas of Siberia.

You saw the rare Ussuri tiger, a two-day-old saiga antelope in the Kalmyk Steppe, the home life of Polar bears, and so on—fascinating!

Kramenko, who is both a distinguished naturalist and an enthusiastic film-maker, intends to make more such films.

And the TV authorities are full with him, for they plan 30 or more nature films a year for the next five or six years.

* * *

WINTER COAT FOR AN ELEPHANT

Flying over the Urals, I touched down at the town of Miass, at the same time as a travelling circus.

They were worrying about their elephant, a lady named Torgas.

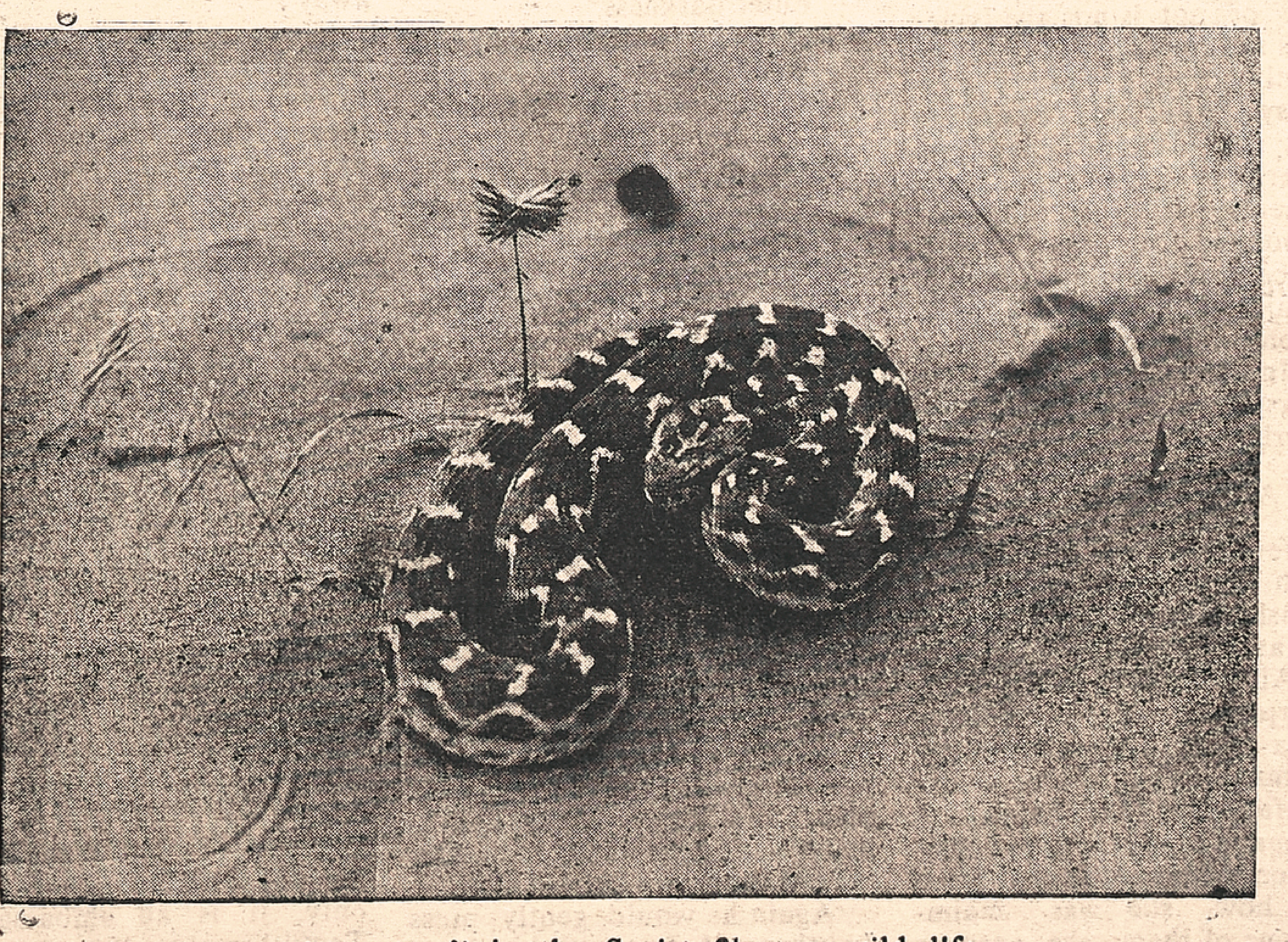
Used to a southern climate, Torgas was feeling the cold badly.

So the circus people went to a local tailor's and asked them to make her a wadded coat!

"It was some job!" said the manageress.

"You don't expect a 180-inch waist, even when a lady is 55!"

But Torgas was duly fitted out. Her coat took 62 feet of nylon, 148 feet of satin and 98 feet of canvas!



An "actor" in the Soviet film on wild life

Soviet Journalist Receives Nehru Award

MOSCOW: Vladimir Makhotin has received a Jawaharlal Nehru Award and it is a recognition of the services done by hundreds of journalists and specialists in Indian studies whose hard work is worthy of special mention.

For about three years now have readers in Calcutta been finding every week letters from Moscow signed by V. Makhotin in the Amrita Bazar Patrika *newspaper. These letters—their number has long topped the hundred mark—can by right be regarded as a chronicle of life in the Soviet Union and of Soviet-Indian friendship.*

The name of Soviet journalist Vladimir Makhotin is known not only to the Bombay magazine Illustrated Weekly of India, *the* Benares Ajem *and other Indian press organs*

Making the Indian readership acquainted with the life of the Soviet Union is but one aspect of Vladimir Makhotin's creative activity. He has contributed to making the Soviet readers familiar with the work of modern Indian writers. He translated many works from Hindi into Russian.

From Page 3

V.V.S. Aiyar

the art with which the parts are combined into an organic whole. It is true that the story follows the order of event chronologically. But there are a hundred ways in which story can be narrated even in the chronological order, and it is in the choice that the poet makes from among these that we see whether it is the supreme artist or an ordinary writer. And Kamban has shown his genius for the atchitectonics of poetry both where he follows Valmiki as well as when he departs from his order."

The characterisation of Rama, the hero of the epic, should naturally show how worthy the poet is. Aiyar has this to say in this regard: "In the delineation of character, Kamban stands on a level with the greatest poets of the world. The lines are drawn with a firm hand, and the characters are painted with such accuracy and fullness that from any single sentence, and sometimes even from a single phrase of a speech, one can tell the person speaking without the least doubt.

BETTER CHARECTERS

"Here too, naturally, Valmiki has set the stamp on the characters of the Ramayana. But in Kamban's hand they have become much more grand. The student of Valmiki will wonder how his Rama and Bharata, Ravana and Kumbhakarna, Vali and Hanuman, Sita and Kausalya, and the rest could be improved. The fact, however, is there that Kamban's heroes and heroines are beings of a decidedly higher stature than those of Valmiki...It is easy to pile epithets upon epithets and constantly repeat that Rama was a divine king. But to create the poetical impression of the divinity of Rama's character and to maintain the epic in all places at the level that will alone harmonise with such an impression is a vastly different thing. And Kamban has eminently succeeded in this extremely difficult task."

NOT A CHAUVINIST

These are statements that would not go unchallenged by scholars of other persuasions. Therefore, whenever he makes such points, Aiyar takes care to substantiate his statement with comparative quotations from Valmiki and others to prove his contention. Aiyar was not a linguistic Chauvinist who would hold that all things Tamil were superior. He was a scholar of deep and vast study who felt sincerely that Kamban was superior in several respects to the other major poets of the world: and it was his intention to place this view before the discriminating scholarly public so that they could judge for themselves. Whether Aiyar succeeded or not is not the issue; he was not rousing a robble; he was only posing a literary controversy. And, this biography is not the place for going into the merits or demerits of Aiyar's arguments. It must, however, be pointed out that Aiyar's "Kamba Ramayanam--A Study" is a major work of literary criticism, one which is now recognised by Indian as well as Western scholars as a book that connot be overlooked.

A FEW SAMPLES

A few samples of Aiyar's English verse translation as well as translation in prose, are given below as of possible interest to show Aiyar's ability in the field.

Shurpanaka tells her brother Ravana of her disfigurement by Lakshmana. She is still under her infatuation for Rama and Lakshmana. She waxes eloquent on their provess, and when asked how she was maimed by one of them, she answers it was all due to a woman, Sita. Who was this Sita? Kumban's Shurpanaka says:

'Her name is Sita: blessed is the earth
That bears her tender feet upon her lap.
Her bosom shines like cups of burnished gold:
The music of her voice recalls the sound
Of woods and groves, and honey and tender-sweet,
A queen among the fair of heavens! If she
Who dwells i' the lotus is not worthy ev'n
To be her maid, how can I make thee feel
Her beauty? Like a deep-black cloud do show
Her tresses fair, and also falling rain.
Her feet are cotton-soft, her fingers show
As corals tendered. Ambrosia she
Has robbed, and lo, her ravishing speech doth flow
Therewith. And though her face is not larger than
The lotus, her eyes are deeper than the sea!
They're fools who say that Manmatha was burnt
By fire of Shiva's eyes. This is the truth:
He saw this damsel and smitten was with love
For her form; but being spurned by her,
He wasted sheer away and a martyr died
To love - such is the beauty of her form......'

BATTLE SCENE

A battle scene—the fight between Indrajit and Lakshmana, when Indrajit invoking the Maheswara Astra against Lakshmana—is described thus:

The world-consuming fire now issued from
Its loins, and now the whirlwind sweeping clean
The earth and all that lives on Judgment Day.
And now the waters of the seas beyond
The seven did issue forth from its entrails.
The sky it darkened as with outer darkness.
The gods in terror fled, and Rishis left.
With whitened face the field: The Vanar host
Sank in despair upon the worlds their orbits swerved
In fear! Vibhishan trembled at the sight
And called the holy name aloud of Raw,
But lion-like Lakshman only smiled......

Rama's grief at Lakshmana's fall in battle is described in the words:

'Now he would plough the ground with his limbs; now he would heave heavy sighs; now he would swoon away as in death; soon coming to himself he would act as one who knew not what he was doing; suddenly he would cry aloud, 'Lakshmana O Lakshmana!' Then he would place his hands under Lakshmana's nostrils and call out, 'Livest thou, my child?'

'Again he would gently press Lakshmana's feet with his lotus hands; he would pat his thighs; he would look intently into his lotus eyes, fair like fresh-gathered flowers; he would listen at his heart to see if it was yet beating; he would look at the heavens; he would lift up his body and place it against his heart; then he would lay it down upon the ground; suddenly he would exclaim 's the foe fled away?'

'He would look at his bow and then at the deadly noose thrown by the enemy; he would look at the night that appeared as if it would never end; he would look at the gods that were crowding in the heavens; he would want to tear the earth itself by its roots.

'He would cast his eyes on the heroes assembled round; he would think of the fate that had brought about this misfortune; once again he would look at his powerful bow and then at his arrows; and then he would cry aloud, 'Has ever man suffered like me?' '

* * *

All in all, Aiyar's "Kamba Ramayanam—A Study" is "to those who know Kamban...a matter for pride and pleasure, and to those who know Tamil but do not know Kamban, it is an incentive to go to the original. To those who know English only, it is an ambassador of Tamil literature."

—To be Continued

Travelling Buildings

MOSCOW: Almost 40 buildings will be moved to new sites in the coming years in Moscow. Back before the war, about 20 large buildings of high architectural value, the building of the Moscow Council among them, had been moved. At present a specialised design and building department concerned with moving of buildings is being sut up.

In the post war years mass housing construction was launched on vacant plots. This gave rise to the South-Western Mnevnikt, Degunino and other districts The new master plan envisages the reconstruction of Moscow's centre, and here there are many unique buildings, as we know. They must not be pulled down, of course. But they can be moved beyond the socalled red line. This is the job which Glavmosstroi's new subdivision will tackle.

The reconstruction of Kalinin Avenue, for instance, will call for moving the large building erected to the design of Matvei Kazakov, a famous Russian architect. Today it houses the A. V. Shchulev Museum of Architecture. The building will not only be moved back to several dozen metres and come in line with the V. I. Lenin State Library, but will also become one metre taller.

This is a very difficult job. The point is that the building of the Museum of Architecture weighs about 15 000 tons. The building will be positioned on a metal frame. After that rails and running beams on rollers will be placed under it. When the building separates from its foundations, mighty electric winches will slowly—at the rate of 10-12 m per hour—pull it to its new place.

Pentagon—The Death Nest

MOSCOW: "Pentagon" is the title of a new documentary film released in Moscow. Its authors—scriptwriter Victor Mayevsky, who is a political commentator, and director Yekaterina Vermisheva—using the precise language of facts, describe the unseemly role of the US Defence Department in the post-war period. The film has been regarded by spectators as an outstanding one in this genre. Drawing on a large number of facts taken from the Soviet film archives and foreign documentaries, the makers of the film have provided it with an interesting, detailed comment. The film gives a true picture convincingly revealing the vicious schemes and deeds of the Pentagon chiefs.

Galaxy Model

IRKUTSK, (USSR) The behaviour of plasma and the evolution of immense stellar conglomerations—galaxies—obey the same mathematical laws. This conclusion was made by a group of Siberian space physicists under Dr. A. Fridman (Physics and Mathematics).

It turned out that mathematical equations analogous to those used to describe the behaviour of plasma are applicable to many processes occurring in galaxies. This suggested the use of plasma installations for modelling the processes taking place in stellar systems. The first such installation was built at the Institute of the Earth's Magnetism, Ionosphere, and Spreading of Radio Waves in Irkutsk (Eastern Siberia).

A Tuva Folk Tale

White Hare And Red Vixen

ONCE upon a time there lived an old man whose name was Mege Saryg. He had no children, nor had he any cattle. He wandered from village to village, and made do with whatever people gave him.

Once at a crossroads he spotted a large leather bag. "This is my wanderer's good luck!" he thought, overjoyed and hastened to untie the bag.

A hungry grey wolf, with teeth bared jumped out, said; "Aha, old man, I'm going to eat you up! I'll swallow you up whole, and not a crumb will I leave! At long last a day of joy has come for me!"

The old man was so frightened that he could not find a fitting answer. All he could do was to mutter: "Just a moment...Please don't hurry... You can eat me later on in the evening, can't you?" The wolf pondered, and agreed: "I suppose the evening would do. My share is mine and will not escape its destiny." The wolf looked up at the sun, and the old man said: "I have saved you and you want to eat me. That is not right. Let others judge between us."

Together they set off along the road. Soon they met a huge bull. The old man said to the bull: "The wolf here had been left tied up in a sack, and I have saved him. Will you tell me now, dear bull, is he right in saying that he must eat me up?"
The bull took time to think it over, and then pronounced: "I am unable to settle your argument. I cannot understand how a man can save a wolf. But there is a white hare living in this forest. He is a wise hare, and he will judge between you. Go to him."

The old man and the wolf entered the forest. They could not see the hare. Meanwhile the wolf felt very hungry and any moment would have swallowed the old man up. Suddenly they caught a fleeting sight of the hare.

"Hallo, Hallo, Hare! Wait for us, don't run away! Settle our argument for us!" called the old man. The hare came over to him and asked: "What's the trouble?"

"Here it is. I was walking along a road and I saw a sack; untied it and the wolf leapt out! As you can see, I have saved his life, and now he wants to eat me up," said the old man.

"Yes, I want to eat him up!" the wolf said. The hare then said: "I am a true judge. I must see the place where all this happened and also see for myself how it was that you saved the wolf."

The three of them went to the crossroads, and the hare asked: "Will you show me, old man, where the sack was lying?"

"I found the sack here," the old man pointed to the spot.

"Then put it where you found it" said the hare, "and you, Wolf, show me how you lay in the sack." The wolk crawled into the sack. "Was the sack tied up?" asked the hare.

"Yes it was," answered the old man.

"Show me how it was tied!" demanded the hare. The old man tied up the sack.

"Well, there you are," announced the hare. "That is all. I have solved your argument. Now you, old man, may continue along your way, and let the wolf lie in the sack,. Good-bye to you!" and the hare headedfor the forest, taking great bounds along his old tracks...

A vixen lived in that forest. There had been a time when she was black as black. Then one day the vixen decided to race with an eel-pout: to see who was quicker. She went to the river bank and shouted: "You nasty old eel-pout, are you there?"

"I am here," the eel-pout answered

"Tomorrow morning we're to race up the river to see who is quicker!"

"Right ho!" answered the eel-pout. He swam deep into the very bottom of the river, called to all the eel-pouts that lived there, and announced to them: "The vixen has challenged me to a race. Now listen to me carefully: I am going to post each one of you along the bank. When the vixen comes and asks: 'Are you here, you nasty old eel-pout?' put your head out of the water, and say 'I am here'. That will be a lesson to the haughty vixen."

Next morning as soon as the sun was up, the vixen came running to the river, shouting: "Hey you nasty old eel-pout. Are you there?"

"I am here," answered the eel-point. The fox ran along the bank up the river, and the eel-pout dived into the water. The vixen ran as hard as she could, she got tired and had to stop. When she stopped she called out: "Are you there, nasty old eel-pout?"

Quite a distance away up the river an eel-pout's head appeared out of the water and called back: "I am here!"

The vixen set off, running quicker still; she was utterly exhausted and her tongue was lolling from her mouth, When she reached the appointed place, the eel-pout was already there waiting for her. "You," he grinned. "I have been waiting for you, for I don't know how long. What, you can't outdistance a nasty old eel-pout? What would be a fitting name for you? I don't think there is one, not really!"

From these words the haughty vixen blushed red as red from top to toe. And that was how she has remained ever since—red.

Kumari Geetha, daughter of Nalli Kuppusamy Chetty whose Bharata Natya arangetram was performed in the presence of a distinguished audience recently.

Late T. K. SHUNMUGAM

Mr. S. D. Sundaram, Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Sangita Nataka Sangam, writes:

Muthamizh Kala Vidwa Ratna, Padmashri Avvai Thiru T. K. Shanmugam, who rendered yeoman service for about fifty years to the cause of Tamil Drama is no more in our midst. He was a Prince of the Tamil Arts, Lover of Literature, A Gem among friends and one who won the hearts of all.

Till his last breath, he laboured to preserve the dignity of the dramatic art and was true to its traditions.

A great devottee of Bharathi, Thiru T. K. Shanmugam always identified himself with the aspirations of the people in the changing society. How can we forget his powerful rendering of Mahakavi Bharati's songs?

Taking diversified roles from Abhimanyu to Avvaiar, in hundreds of plays, he has won the hearts of millions of people.

The artistic Soul that toiled restlessly for the upiift of the art for half a century has attained eternal rest!

The tireless Artiste who spent thousands of sleepless nights, entertaing the lovers of drama, has now taken to eternal sleep!

His versatality in the three-fold Tamil Literature, his rare talents as an Actor on the Stage, and above all his dedicated devotion to the Great Cultural Heritage of India will ever shine as living monuments for his memory!

In appreciation of his unique contribution to the Dramatic Art, he was honoured with the Presidential Award and the Tamilnadu Sangita Nataka Sangam conferred on him the Award as an Outstanding Drâma Actor.

The demise of this Veteran Artiste has created a void in the Dramatic field, difficult to fill.

Let us try to continue to maintain the dignity and decorum of the Dramatic Art for which the departed soul was striving.

On behalf of the Tamilnadu Sangita Nataka Sangam and on my own behalf I convey our sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray that the departed Soul may rest in peace!

STRONG POINT

Father was examining Riggie's school report.

"English poor, maths poor, French very weak, History unsatisfactory," he read aloud, frowning at Reggie.

"It is not as good as it might be, Dad, I must admit," said his son, "but read on."

And on the very next line father read, "Health excellent."

FREE INDIA, FEBRUARY 25, 1973

CO-OPERATION ON WILDLIFE

A Soviet-American working group concerned with the conservation of rare and endangered species of animals and general wild-life conservation and management, signed its first joint protocol in Moscow on January 31. The group was established in implementation of the U.S.S.R.-U.S. Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Environmental Protection. A joint statement made to the press after the signing of the protocol noted in particular the interest evinced by the US biologists in methods used in the USSR substituting biological means for chemical control of forest pests. The co-operative projects to be carried out in the next two years include development of a USSR-US treaty for conservation of migratory birds, ecological study and conservation of Polar bears, whales and seals, and study of relationship between USSR and US floras.

* * *

Against U.S: Diktat

The eighth annual meeting of the inter-American Economic and Social Council attended by delegates of the countries affiliated to the Organization of American States was held in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, over January 30–February 8.

A salient feature of the meeting was the sharp criticism levelled by the Latin American participants at U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere. The delegate of Ecuador, Jaime Moncayo, said that there was a crisis of confidence between Latin America and the United States, and urged the building of a Latin American united front against U.S. diktat. The head of the Chilean delegation, Hugo Cubillos, noted that while Latin America received $9,450 million under the Alliance for Progress programme, the outflow to the United States in payments on debts, interest and profits amounted to $17,644 million in the past ten years. He urged curbing the excessive U.S. influence in the Inter-American system and stressed that the Latin American countries should act independently of Washington policy.

* * *

Free copies of one of the world's most quoted newspapers

Judged the most fair newspaper in the U.S. by professional journalists themselves. A leading international daily. One of the top three newspapers in the world according to journalistic polls. Winner of over 79 major awards in the last five years, including three Pulitzer Prizes. Over 3000 newspaper editors read the Monitor.

Just send us your name and address and we'll mail you a few free copies of the Monitor without obligation.

Please Print

Name__________

Address__________

City__________

Country__________

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Box 125, Astor Station
Boston, MA U.S.A. 02123

Z39EA

Far and Near

Education Statistics

UNESCO has released statistics throwing light on the state of education in the world today. The total school enrolment is estimated at 650 million. In the eight years 1960–68, emrolment in higher schools increased by 10 per cent, in secondary schools by 65 per cent, in elementary schools by 45 per cent, and in pre-school institutions by 35 per cent. At the same time the number of teachers increased by half as much again, from 12.6 million to 18.2 million.

The statistics reveal adverse trends as well The number of children in the 5–14 age bracket who never enter a school-room has been increasing, reaching a total of 17 million by 1968. If the situation does not improve, UNESCO Feature says, the number of illiterate adults in the world will approach 820 million by 1980.

Although there are belts of illiteracy in the developed industrial countries as well, the situation is especially alarming in the developing countries. Latin America still has 38 million, and Asia nearly 500 million.

* * *

Escalation Of Racism

British Home Secretary Robert Carr announced in the House of Commons on January 23 additional restrictions on the entry into the British Isles of British passport holders of Asian descent from Commonwealth countries. At the same time the entry of white citizens from Commonwealth countries is made easier.

"Open door for white citizens —Carr guards against new Asian influx" is how the new immigration regulations are characterized by the Daily Telegraph known to be close to government quarters. London press commentators regard the regulations as a concession by Prime Minister Heath to the most reactionary wing of the Conservative Party, whose leaders have long made racism a keystone of their political tactics.

* * *

Neo-Nazi Sally

Fascimile copies of the Volkischer Beobachter, one time principal mouthpiece of the nazi party, have appeared on West German news stands. The full size reproductions of the January 31, 1933, issue of the paper which was devoted wholly to the National Socialist entry into power were printed in Gutersloh and are provided with a cover with commentaries by historians and journalists to make for "better understanding of the time and the newspaper". In Hamberg the city police confiscated 38 copies, but soon released them on the grounds that the sale of such reprints as "supplementary documentation" to collectorr is permissible.

In West Berlin, where the facsimile was also put on sale, the progressive press is demanding effective action against neo-nazi sallies.

The Springer publication Die Welt printed a reproduction of part of the first page of the nazi mouthpiece describing January 31, 1933, as an "historical day" and featuring a picture of Hitler and the announcament of his appointment as Chancellor. The reprint was accompanied by an axcursion into German history entitled "The People Seem to Want a Hitler."

* * *

Laser Bomb

Work has been going on in the United States for five years on a "laser bomb"– a hydrogen bomb with a laser beam detonator. It is believed that use of the laser device will make it possible to produce a considerably lighter bomb that could be delivrred to target by less powerful rockets.

In the current fiscal year $22 million is to be spent on developing the weapon, and a further $34 million allocation is envisaged for the purpose in the draft budget for next year. Of this sum $20 million is earmarked for the construction of a special high-power laser research centre in Livermore, California.

—

"And, darling, do you really love me?"

"You know I do, pet."

"And do you think of me all the time?"

"Not at street crossings, darting."

Calendars of the East

Besides the International Gregorian calendar, Eastern countries use calenders closely linked with religion.

Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon and other Moslem countries of the Middle East use the lunar hejira calender. It reckons from July 16, A.D.622, the date, according to legend, of Mohammed's flight (hejira in Arabic) from Mecca to Medina. It is based on the lunar year which lasts about 554 days. According to this calendar, this is now the year 1393.

The state calendar in Iran and Afghanistan is the solar hejira calendar. It also reckons from A.D. 622, but the new year begins on March 21.

Turkey officially adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1927, but all religious holidays are observed according to the lunar hejira calendar.

The official calendar in Israel is the Lunisolar jewish calendar. The length of the year varies: the common year has 353, 354 and 355 days and the leap year has 385, 384 and 385 days. This calendar reckons from the mythical date of the "Creation" October 7, 3761 B.C. The present year is 5733.

A single civil calendar for the whole conntry first appeared in India only in 1957. The year there begins on March 22 (first day of the month of Chaitra). The calendar reckons from the Shaka Era, which began on March 3, 78 B.C.

China, Japan and Vietnam have adopted the Gregorian calendar, but the ancient Chinese lunar calencar is also used. Vietnam, for instance, celebrates the lunar New Year (Tet) while January 1 is an ordinary working day.

—

SUN POWER VIA SATELLITE?

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Scientists are convinced the sun can supply the earth with a boundless supply of elecirical energy. The question is how. To find an answer, the U. S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has authorised a study by four associated teams of researchers.

The teams will explore the technical problems of establishing a tatellite solar power station more than 35,000 kilometres above the earth. It would remain in place over a certain geographical area. The satellite station would convert solar energy to electric power and transmit it by micro wave beam to receiving stations on earth, where it would be distributed by conventional means.

NASA plans to compare this method with others for producing large amounts of power from the sun's energy to see which is most practical.

Fitter A. Bochkurov belongs to a family of builders. In the thirties his father built up Kuznetsk Iron and steel works.

From Second Cover

153 construction projects have been declared Komsomol top priority projects.

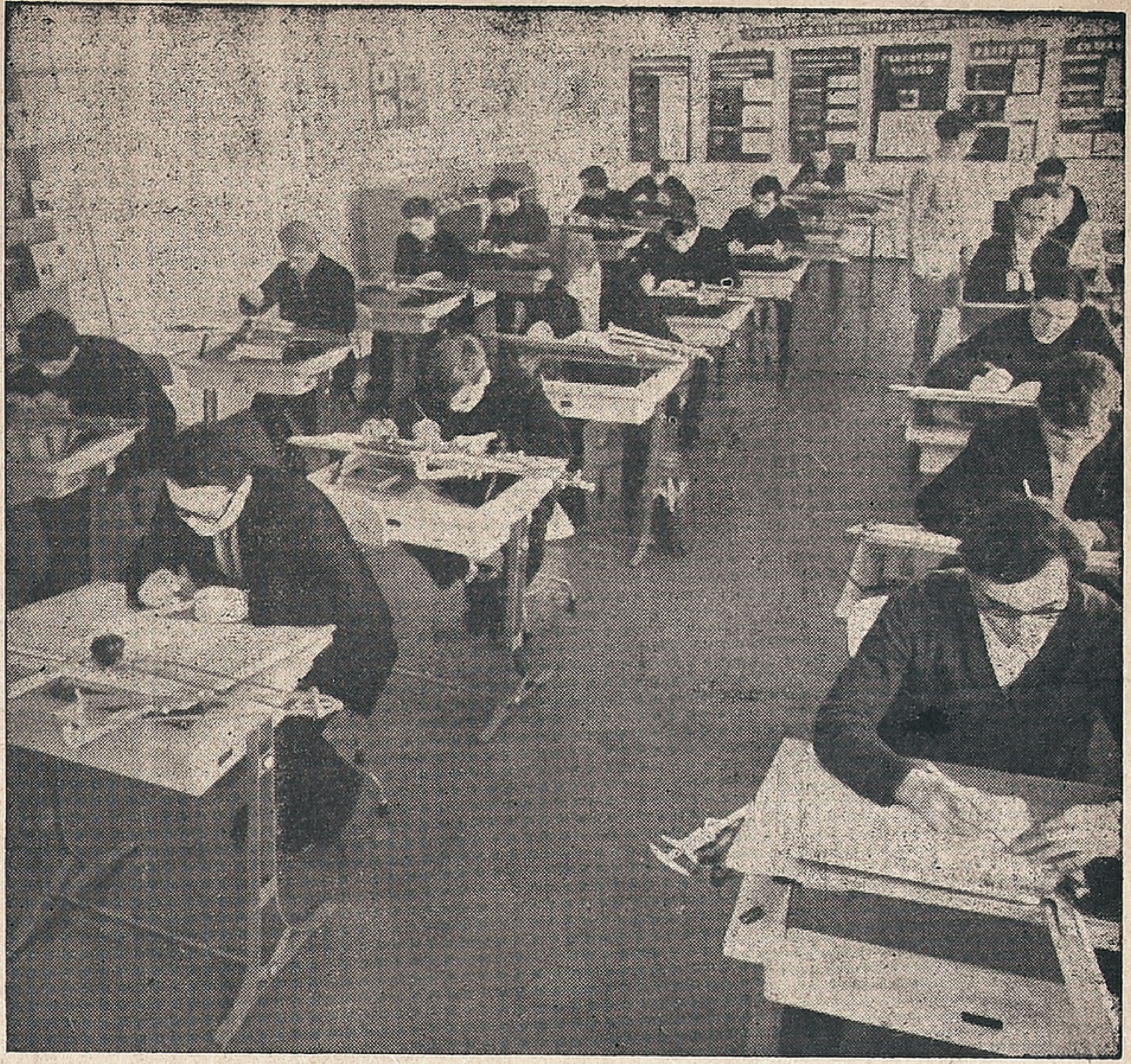
What attracts young people to new places?

One reason is that the Soviet Union is a young country—young in age, in spirit, in ideas and in the social system which it is building. Those who create are the most honoured people in the Soviet Union. The trade of a builder gives young people a favourable opportunity to express themselves.

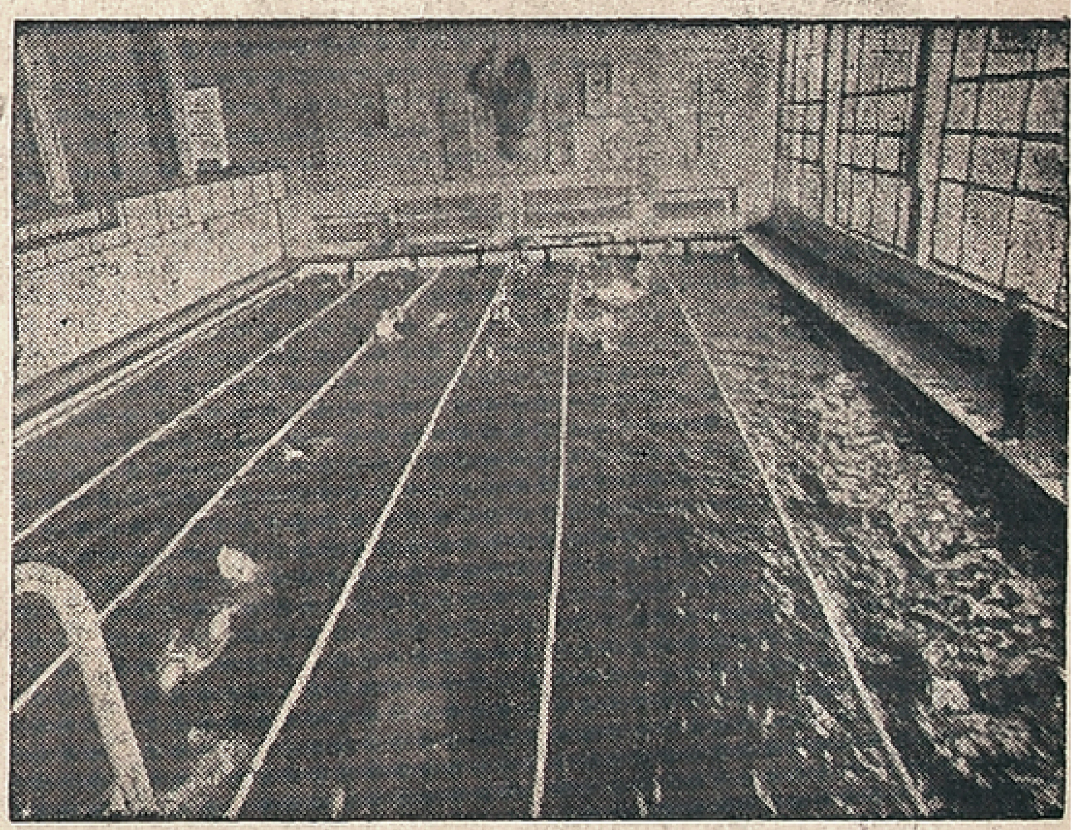
Secondly the YCL organisations which handle the top-priority construction projects provide an opportunity to live an interesting life, full of adventure and challenge.

A Komsomol ticket has an air of romance. It has become symbol of labour exploits for Soviet Union. For many it brings the joy of travel and the joy of exploring one's own country.

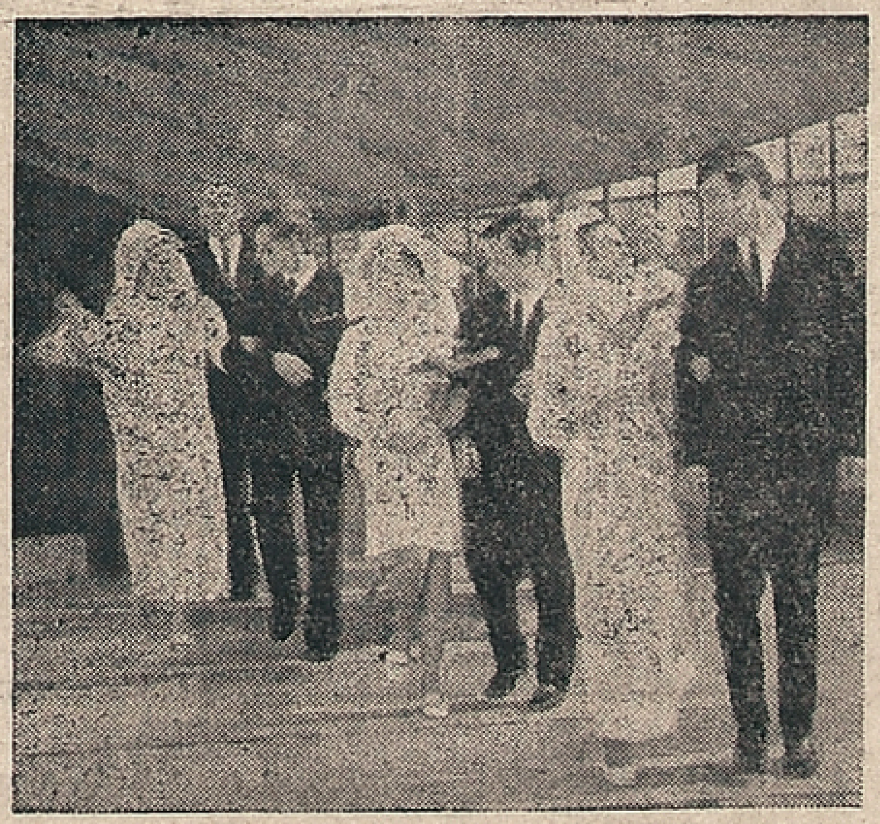
(Another picture on last cover)



A School for those who want to improve their qualifications



Right: Builders everywhere are provided with ample sports facilities. This swimming pool is one of the best in the region. **Left:** A plant'samature artistes performing the Ukrainian Hopak dance.



Right: Holiday homes and tourist centres where workers can spend their vacations have been built at picturesque spots. **Left:** A plant's amature artistes performing the Ukrainian Hopak dance.

Fitters from I. Shahaldash's team are hoisting a red banner won by them in the course of emulation.

Edited and published for the Free India Private Ltd., by G. Rangarajan at the Free India Press, 77, General Patters Road, Mount Road, Madras-2. Editor D. Krishnamurthy.